

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT A 00945 031337Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 AID-05 /033 W

----- 115336

R 021343Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2607

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT AU PRINCE 2050

EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: MORG, MPOL, HA

SUBJECT: VSN ANNIVERSARY GIVEN BIG PLAY: ROSALIE ADOLPHE NAMED
VSN SUPERVISOR GENERAL

1. PRESIDENTIAL BOOST TO VSN: ROSALIE RIDES AGAIN -
IN SHARP CONTRAST TO LAST YEAR'S LOW KEY CELEBRATION,
PRESIDENT JEAN-CLAUDE DUVALIER, DRESSED IN NATIONAL
SECURITY VOLUNTEER (VSN) BLUE DENIM UNIFORM, PRESIDED
OVER A MAJOR PARADE AND RECEPTION ON JULY 29 HONORING
THE 18TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MILITIA
(AND TONTON MACOUTES), SINCE RENAMED THE VSN.
ANOTHER SURPRISE WAS HIS NAMING OF MRS. MAX (ROSALIE)
ADOLPHE TO THE NEW POSITION OF NATIONAL VSN SUPERVISOR
GENERAL. ADOLPHE, ONCE INFAMOUS AS COMMANDANT OF
THE VSN UNIT AT FORT DIMANCHE PRISON FROM 1964 TO
1971, RECENTLY FELL INTO OBSCURITY -- ALONG WITH MOST
OTHER VSN LEADERS. ADOLPHE'S LAST ADMINISTRATIVE
POSITION WAS AS PORT AU PRINCE MAYOR FROM MAY
TO DECEMBER 1972. SHE WAS EVEN RUMORED TO HAVE
BEEN DETAINED BRIEFLY IN CONNECTION WITH THE INVESTI-
GATION IN JUNE 1975 OF AN ALLEGED ANTI-GOH PLOT
INVOLVING FORMER MINISTERS RAMEAU ESTIME AND
JEAN JULME. YESTERDAY, HOWEVER, SHE STOOD PROUDLY
AT THE PRESIDENT'S SIDE IN FULL UNIFORM.

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PAGE 02 PORT A 00945 031337Z

2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SHOCK TROOPS? - ECHOING

A THEME WIDELY PUBLICIZED THROUGH DUVALIER'S INTERVIEW PUBLISHED BY PARIS MATCH ON JULY 10, THE PRESIDENT AND OTHER VSN LEADERS SPOKE OF THE VSN'S NEW ROLE IN ASSISTING HAITI'S "ECONOMIC REVOLUTION" ON ALL FRONTS: PROFESSIONAL AND HANDICRAFT ACTIVITIES, MANUAL LABOR, AND ASSISTANCE TO PEASANT FARMERS. AT THE SAME, DUVALIER RECALLED THE VSN'S HISTORIC ROLE OF DEFENDING THE REGIME FROM ITS POLITICAL ENEMIES, AND ENCOURAGED VSN MEMBERS TO CONTINUE "TO SLEEP ALWAYS WITH ONE EYE OPEN."

3. VSN MORALE SOARS - THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE NEW BURST OF PRESIDENTIAL ATTENTION, TOGETHER WITH ROSALIE ADOPLHE" NEW APPOINTMENT AS NATIONAL SUPERVISOR GENERAL, GAVE AN ENORMOUS SHOT IN THE ARM TO THE VSN'S HERETOFORE SAGGING MORALE. THROUGHOUT THE EVENING OF JULY 29, VSN MILITIAMEN WERE CAROUSING DRUNKENLY AROUND THE CITY, SHOOTING GUNS IN THE AIR LIKE COWBOYS IN THE OLD WEST. WHILE WE ARE UNAWARE OF ANY RESULTING INJURIES OR DEATHS, THE POLICE WERE LARGELY UNSUCCESSFUL IN THEIR SPOTTY EFFORTS TO PREVENT MILITIAMEN FROM FIRING THEIR RIFLES AND PISTOLS.

4. COMMENT: AS ONE OBSERVER NOTED WRYLY, HE DOUBTED THAT THE VSN MILITIAMEN WERE CELEBRATING IN JOYFUL ANTICIPATION OF HELPING OUT PEASANTS. THEY, AT LEAST, SEEMED TO FEEL THAT THE GOOD OLD BAD DAYS OF DUVALIERISM ARE RETURNING -- A VIEW DOUBTLESS SHARED BY HAITIAN POLITICAL EXILES. ON THE OTHER HAND, MINISTERS LEVEILLE (AGRICULTURE) AND LAURIN (PUBLIC WORKS) HAVE INDICATED PRIVATELY TO EMBOFFS THAT THE VSN IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDE LARGE NUMBERS OF LABORERS FOR FUTURE GOH DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. THUS, WHETHER DUVALIER JUST KICKED OFF THE NEW ECONOMIC ACTIVIST PHASE FOR THE STILL UNSUSPECTING VSN REGULARS OR INSTEAD ENCOURAGED A BACKWARD STEP FOR POLITICAL LIBERALIZATION, REMAINS AN OPEN QUESTION. WHAT IS CLEAR IS THAT THE VSN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 PORT A 00945 031337Z

IS BACK IN THE DUVALIERIST LIMELIGHT, FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE.
ISHAM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, MILITARY CEREMONIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PORTA00945
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760299-0002
From: PORT AU PRINCE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760896/aaaadghr.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <13 SEP 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VSN ANNIVERSARY GIVEN BIG PLAY: ROSALIE ADOLPHE NAMED VSN SUPERVISOR GENERAL
TAGS: MORG, MPOL, HA, VSN, (DUVALIER, JEAN-CLAUDE), (ADOLPHE, ROSALIE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006